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Khalil-Complaints

DISCIPLINARY BOARD RECEIVES 10 COMPLAINTS A WEEK ON BRANCH MEETINGS

MERLIMAU, March 17 (Bernama) -- The newly-created Umno Disciplinary Board receives about 10 complaints a week on members' misconduct in the ongoing branch meetings, party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today.

He, however, said the reported cases were not serious and could be resolved by the board headed by Umno veteran Tan Sri Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen Tengku Ismail.

Among the complaints received were use of money by candidates to woo votes and preventing members from paying membership fee, he said.

The board would investigate all the complaints directly and with full transparency to determine the truth, he told reporters after meeting Jasin Umno division leaders here.

The board's establishment was part of Umno's constitutional amendments passed in November last year.

Asked to comment on phantom members in Umno, Khalil said the problem did not arise in branch meetings as the party had strict rules on membership.

"Maybe, members are transferred from one branch to another without they realising it and their names not keyed in the computer," he said.

Asked on the Umno-PAS Malay unity talks, he said Umno was waiting for PAS' reply as its central working committee is expected to meet tomorrow.

"Matters to be discussed at the meeting have been made clear. Umno knows what PAS may bring up at the meeting. What's important is for us to meet first," he said.

Khalil said Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was prepared to discuss anything on Malay unity and was waiting for PAS to fix the date.

Asked on the role of television in fostering goodwill among the people, Khalil, who is Information Minister, said television stations had played a vital role in disseminating information and screening documentaries in efforts to forge friendship and good neighbourliness.

He said information officers had been asked to explain the actual reasons for the recent violent clashes that erupted between resident groups at Kampung Medan and in surrounding areas.

Six people were killed in the clashes and 47 were injured.

On his meeting with Jasin Umno leaders, Khalil said it was to monitor the conduct of the branch meetings and to listen to problems arising.

-- BERNAMA

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